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Campaign complaint against Coral Gables candidate dismissed

A complaint (**C 17-09**) filed against Coral Gables City Commission candidate Wayne “Chip” Withers was dismissed today after a special master found No Probable Cause that Withers violated the Voluntary Statement of Fair Campaign Practices. Former City Commissioner Ralph Cabrera alleged that a campaign flyer touting the support of former Florida International University President Modesto “Mitch” Maidique for Mr. Withers confused voters into believing that Maidique is still FIU president that FIU itself was endorsing the Group 3 commission candidate. During an expedited hearing, former Broward County Chief Judge Victor Tobin, sitting as a hearing examiner, after reviewing the flyer and hearing arguments presented by Attorney J.C. Planas on behalf of Cabrera and by Withers in defense of his actions, found No Probable Cause and dismissed the complaint. Voting in the municipal election concludes tomorrow.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

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